

## **The University at Albany and the Centro Memorial Martin Luther King Jr. in Havana, Cuba, present:**

History, Culture and Politics of Cuba

A semester-long, 16-credit study abroad program in Cuba

### **Courses**

370-570 (Pol Econ) Political Economy, 60 hours, 4 credits: Overview of Marxist political economy. Given the importance of Marxist thought in modern day Cuba, the first ten weeks offer a theoretical overview of Marxist political economy, focusing on the dialectic method, the theory of value, commodities, production, distribution and consumption, capitalist crisis, class formation, exploitation, hegemony, technological change, money and finance, the role of the State, and imperialism and colonialism. The final three weeks focus on the current political economy in Cuba, including an evaluation of the five economic eras since 1959 and the newly proposed economic reforms.

Course goals:

- Understand the basic Marxist analytical categories, including class, exploitation, value, crisis, and commodity.
- Understand the theoretical underpinnings of the Marxist critique of capitalism.
- Understand the dialectic method and historical materialism.
- Understand and evaluate the real life application of Marxism in Cuba.

Professors:

- Dr. Thomas Hansen, University at Albany-SUNY
- Dra. Gladys Hernández: economist and researcher at the Centro de Investigacion de la Economia Mundial (CIEM).

Bibliography:

- Ollman, Bertell, *Dance of the Dialectic*
- Heilbroner, Robert, *Marxism: For and Against*
- Harvey, David, *Limits to Capital*
- Wolff and Resnick, *Economics: Marxian vs Neoclassical*
- Lenin, V., "Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism"
- Mesa-Lago, Carmelo and Jorge F Perez-Lopez, *Cuba's Aborted Reform: Socioeconomic Effects, International Comparisons and Transition Politics*
- Aponte-Garcia, Maribel, "Foreign Investment and Trade in Cuban Development: A 50-Year Reassessment with Emphasis on the Post-1990 Period"
- Royce, Frederick, "Agricultural production cooperatives: The future of Cuban agriculture?"
- Ritter, Archibald RM, "Economic Illegalities and the Underground Economy in Cuba"
- Perez Villanueva, Omar Everleny, "The Cuban economy: A current evaluation and proposals for necessary policy changes"
- Berman, Marshall, *Todo lo solido en el aire*

371-571 (Hist) History of Cuba, 60 hours, 4 credits: Overview of Cuban history, including colonization, independence struggles, the 1959 revolution, the social impacts of the revolution, and the special period, with particular emphasis on US-Cuba relations as they developed through the centuries. Students will be able to situate an analysis of contemporary Cuba within an historical context. Workshops, meetings and museum visits compliment formal academic classes.

Course objectives:

- Understand the impact of colonization and slavery.
- Understand the historic cultural/political influence of the US on the island.
- Understand the development and meaning of nationalism.

- Understand the dynamics and impact of the 1959 revolution.
- Understand the stages of development of the revolution, with special focus on the economic, social and cultural changes.
- Understand the development and impact of the “special period.”
- Understand and evaluate the economic and social changes announced during the 2011 Congress of the Communist Party.
- Understand the historic development of race and gender relations in Cuba.
- Understand the historic development of Cuban nationalism.
- Understand the impact of the Cuban revolution on second and third generation post-revolutionary Cubans.

#### Professors:

- Dr. Fernández Martínez Heredia: Author, political analyst and President of the Instituto de Investigaciones Culturales Juan Marinello.
- Dra. Ana Cairo Ballester: Professor in Ciencias Filosóficas at the University of Havana, member of the Escritores y Artistas de Cuba and the Asociación de Historiadores de América Latina y el Caribe.
- Dr. Julio Fernández Estrada: Attorney and Professor at the University of Havana.
- Dr. Gilberto Valdés Gutiérrez: Coordinator of the Grupo American Latina, Filosofía Social y Axiología (GALFISA) at the Instituto de Filosofía. His major focus is Latin American social movements.
- Dra. Yohanka León del Río: Researcher at the Instituto de Filosofía and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Havana.
- Dra. Georgina Alfonso González: Researcher at the Instituto de Filosofía and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Havana.

#### Bibliography:

- Perez, Jr., Louis A, *On Becoming Cuban: Identity, Nationality and Culture*
- Gott, Richard, *Cuba: A New History*
- Chomsky, Aviva, Barry Carter and Pamela Maria Smorkaloff (eds), *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics*
- Olson, Gary, “Cuban internationalism as engaged empathy”
- Krook, Daniel, “Cuban internationalism in Angola, 1975-1991”
- Torres, Nelson, Henshall Momsen, and Niemeier, “Experiment or transition? Revisiting food distribution in Cuban agromercados from the ‘special period’”
- Ibarra, Jorge, *Ideología Mambisa*
- Morena, Franginal, *El ingenio*
- *Revista Caminos, Raza y racismo*
- Fernandes, Sujatha, *Cuba Presente: Cuban Arts, State Power and the Making of New Revolutionary Cultures*
- Casal, Lourdes, “Revolution and Race: Blacks in Contemporary Cuba”
- De la Fuente, Alejandro, *A Nation for All: Race, Inequality and Politics in Twentieth Century Cuba*
- Luciak, Ilja, “Gender and democracy in Cuba”
- Muphy, Schutte, Slagter, Lopez, “Feminism in Cuba: Report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference of North American and Cuban philosophers”

373-573 (Pol Sci) Cuban Politics, 60 hours, 4 credits: Analysis of the Cuban State – how it is organized, how it functions, and the role of the Cuban Communist Party. The course includes a historic evaluation of US-Cuba relations and Cuba’s international relations, as well as discussion of the role of Cuban society in politics and decision-making.

#### Course goals:

- Understand the ebbs and flows of US-Cuba relations, particularly as they relate to worldwide and regional political trends.

- Understand US policy initiatives toward Cuba and their impact on bilateral relations, including the embargo, the Torricelli Act, the Helms-Burton Law, TV and Radio Marti, and changes in travel restrictions, as well as the role of the Cuban-American community.
- Understand the context and impact of the October Crisis (aka, the Cuban Missile Crisis).
- Understand Cuba's international relations, with special focus on Latin America and Africa.
- Understand the structure and decision-making processes of the Cuban state, with special emphasis on the Cuban Communist Party and the various mass organizations (Federation of Cuban Women, Federation of Cuban Labor, Committees for the Defense of the Revolution)
- Critical evaluation of the impact of State-sponsored measures to alter race and gender dynamics after the revolution.
- Understand the role, scope of action and impacts of non-governmental organizations.

#### Professors:

- Dr. Jorge Luis Acanda: Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Havana, with an emphasis on history and Marxist thought.
- Dra. Gladys Hernández: an economist and researcher at the Centro de Investigacion de la Economia Mundial (CIEM).
- Rafael Hernandez, Director of the journal Temas
- Alfredo Prieto, specialist in US-Cuba relations and editor of the journal Temas
- Tomas Fernandez Robaina, specialist in race and ethnic studies at the Biblioteca Nacional
- Isable Moya, specialist in gender studies, journalist, author

#### Bibliography:

- Reese, Erlich, *Dateline Havana: The real story of US policy and the future of Cuba*
- Morales Dominguez, Esteban, *United States-Cuba Relations: A Critical History*
- Benjamin, Jules R, *The United States and the Origins of the Cuban Revolution*
- Erlich, Reese, *Dateline Havana: The Real Story of US Policy and the Future of Cuba*
- Alzugaray Treto, Carlos, "Continuity and change in Cuba at 50: The revolution at a crossroads"
- Harris, Richard L, "Cuban internationalism, Che Guevara, and the survival of Cuba's socialist regime"
- Castro, Raul, "Central Report to the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba"
- LeoGrande, William, "The Communist Party of Cuba faces the future," in *A Contemporary Cuban Reader*
- Huish, Robert and John M. Kirk, "Cuban medical internationalism and the development of the Latin American School of Medicine"
- Tulchin, Bobea, Espina Prieto, Hernandez, "Changes in Cuban society since the nineties"
- Angotti, Tom, "Fifty years of rectification"
- LeoGrande, William, "The Cuban Communist Party and electoral politics: Adaption, succession and transition"
- Smith, Wayne S, *The Closest of Enemies: A Personal and Diplomatic Account of US-Cuba Relations since 1957*
- Grunig, Larissa A., "The Cuban Women's Federation: Organization of a feminist revolution"
- Friedman, Douglas, "Centro Memorial Martin Luther King Jr.: Cuban Civil society and Popular Education"
- Henthorne, George, Williams, "The evolving service culture of Cuban tourism: A case study"
- Nayeri and Lopez-Pardo, "Economic crisis and access to care: Cuba's health care system since the collapse of the Soviet Union"
- Gasperini, Lavinia, "The Cuban education system: Lessons and dilemmas"
- Font, Mauricio (ed), *Cuba today: Continuity and change since the 'periodo especial'*
- Evenson, Debra, "Opening paths to renewed popular participation"
- Hernandez, Dilla, Dugan Abbassi, Diaz, "Political culture and popular participation in Cuba"
- Cluster, Dick, "Northamericans looking at Cubans, *Cubanos mirando a los yumas*"

380 (Span) Spanish, 60 hours, 4 credits: Focus on conversational Spanish, reading and writing using popular education techniques. Readings and newspaper articles by Cuban authors, theater, music, and film provide

generative themes, which are used to create conversation and develop vocabulary and grammar. Weekly writing assignments of three pages in Spanish encourage students to reflect on the events of the week. Readings and generative themes are closely related to topics in other academic classes so that students develop intellectually in both Spanish and English. Students take an initial placement test to determine their level of instruction. Classes are small (generally 7 to 10 students) allowing for close personal attention.

Course goals:

- Manage vocabulary and grammar appropriate for academic discussions about other courses in the program.
- Improve verbal, reading and writing skills in a structured environment.
- Improve verbal communication skills in unstructured social environments.

Professors:

- Dra. Maria Gloria Benavides Guevara: Doctorate in linguistics from CIESAS in Mexico City.
- Haydee Arango, Professor of literature at the University of Havana
- Roberto Zurbano, writer and editor at Casa de las Americas
- Margarita Mateo, researcher in modern Cuban literature

Bibliography:

- Villaverde, Cirilo, *Cecilia Valdes*
- Marti, Jose, *La Edad de Oro*
- Carpentier, Alejo, *Siglo de las Luces*
- Alonso, Dora, *Tierra Inerme*
- Guerra, Wendy, *Todos Se Van*
- Morejon, Nancy, *Mujer Negra*
- Castro, Fidel, *La historia me absolvera*
- Guevara, Che, *El hombre Nuevo*
- Padura, Leonardo, *La novella de mi Vida*

Movies:

- Lista de espera by Juan Carlos Tabio
- Fresa y chocolate by Tomas Gutierrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabio
- Perez, Fernando, Jose Marti en el ojo del canario

Electives:

375-575 (Ind) Independent Studies, 60 hours, 4 credits: Content and methodology to be approved in advance by the student's home institution and AUSM professors. Students who are native Spanish speakers and who would not benefit from Spanish language classes may substitute independent study for Spanish language classes.

Internships:

In addition to the schedule outlined below, students have the opportunity to participate in internships one afternoon a week, working with educational centers, youth groups, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, etc.